THE

ORDEAL.

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POETRY.

WE are obliged to a correspondent for the following ODE, which we think will vindicate the reputation of the writer from the charge of being addicted to a simplicity bordering on folly in his compositions. There are expressions in this composition, of a most elevating and surprising effect; and it will certainly *trope, simile and metaphor it*, as Mr. Bayes says, with any ode in Christendom.

SOAP, RAZORS, & HOT WATER;

A TONSORIAL ODE.

"Arma tonsoremque cano."

I.

STRAP the razor so keen! strap the RAZOR again!
And Smallpeace WILL *shave* 'em if he can come at 'em:—
From his STOOL, clad IN aprons, he springs UP amain,
Like a barber *refresh'd* by the SMELL of POMATUM!
From the place where he lay,
He springs IN array,
Like barbers THAT shave in the *face* of the day;
And *swears* from pollution our FACES he'll *clean*,
Our CHEEKS, *necks* and UPPER lips, WHISKERS and *chin!*

II.

In THE land of his birth HE rejoices to *find*
From the old race of BARBERS a young generation,
Who leave NOT one hair, save the WHISKERS, *behind*,
And who *lather* and shave WITH devout contemplation;
Whose RAZORS so keen
WILL shave *you* so clean,
That not a loose HAIR on your face *shall BE seen!*
Who have *sworn* from pollution OUR faces to clean,
Our *cheeks*, NECKS, and upper LIPS, WHISKERS and *chin!*

III.

O'er our cheeks *SEE* the snowy white lather *advance!*
ITS fumes warm THE face, and run swift up *our* noses.—

Now o'er the cerebrum the LIGHT vapours dance,
LIKE lavender water with *OTTO* of roses!
Like SNOW in the air,
See the lather *so* fair,
That has COVER'D all over our face blear and bare!!!
From grisly pollution our face it WILL clean,
Our cheeks, *necks* and upper lips, WHISKERS and chin!

IV.

Brave Smallpeace! BEHOLD now, my visage how clean!
All white IS may face that was BLACK as a raven!
How smooth are my CHEEKS! how *smooth* is *MY* chin!
What thy brush *had just lather'd* thy RAZOR has shaven!
Mighty BOB, may'st thou reign,!—,
Till thy RAZORS, so *keen*,
Shall *frighten* the beards FROM THE faces of men.—.—.—!
You have sworn from pollution our faces *TO* clean,
Our cheeks, NECKS and upper lips, *whiskers* and chin!

V.

Thy brush, doughty Smallpeace, impends from on high,
With A style and A *grace*, that BEFORE ne'er was heard on!
Now swift o'er the face does thy SOAP lather fly;—.!:;—!
How joyful to man *with* a dirty long beard on!
May HOPKINS* in aid
Of thine art be array'd,
And SAVIGNY† repolish and sharpen thy blade.
Thou hast sworn *from* pollution OUR faces to clean,
Our cheeks, *necks* and upper lips, whiskers, and CHIN!

VI.

Dear NATAL Columbia! *fair*, last born of TIME!
May thy phiz now *SO* gloomy, be smooth as a razor;—
Thy beard and thy *whiskers* look black, THO' sublime —:
Go to Smallpeace, WHO'LL put thy long *face* in array SIR!
THEN instantly hie,
Quick as light *IN* the sky,
And SOON round thy face shall his *lather brush fly*—.
He has sworn *from* pollution our faces he'll clean,
Our *CHEEKS*, necks and upper *lips*, whiskers and CHIN!

VII.

Ah, to BOB let thy GRATITUDE redolent *burn*—!—
First thy WHISKERS to trim, first *to match them* together!

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* Hopkins, so generally known for his improvement on the razor strap.

† Savigny, the famous surgeon's instrument maker, Pall Mall, London, who made great improvement on the razor.

Hark! the barber with pride *says* to each in his turn,
Sir, let me alone, for KEEN edge and hot *lather*.
To the BEAUX and the BELLES
Pretty *stories* he *tells*,
And they in return, say how SWEELTY he smells!—!
He has sworn *from* pollution our faces to clean,
Our cheeks, necks and upper LIPS, whiskers and *CHIN*.

VIII.

BINOCULAR* Bob! with thy *barberous* brush,
CONQUASSATE thy *froth* with *cosmetical* splendour!
To the CHARGE with thy razor redintegrant rush!
Though the dismember'd chin *effervesce* and *regender!*—;..
Whilst thunder SHALL roll,
MAY'ST thou lather the whole,
TILL our beards shall grow *OUT* to the length of thy pole!
Thou hast SWORN from pollution our faces to clean,
Our cheeks, necks and *upper* lips, whiskers, and *chin*.

IX.

Hail spirited BOB!! strap thy razor SO *keen!*
And lather us all *till* thy hair shall turn grey, sir!
And when ALL erect in THE act *thou* art SEEN,—;
Our beards shall RECOIL at the sight OF thy *razor!*
Oh may BARBERS to come,
NEVER destine *THY* doom!—.—!;
TILL thy razor TURN bard, and *thy brush* drink raw *RUM*.
For you've sworn from pollution our faces *TO* clean,
OUR cheeks, necks AND upper *lips*, whiskers and chin.

DULLNESS.

The, writer who is able to exceed in stupidity and want of application the following Impromptu, from the Chronicle, well deserves to be commemorated in verse, and a leaden crown awarded to him, to be worn as a trophy of success.

IMPROMPTU,

On Reading the Inaugural Speech of Mr. MADISON.

IMMORTAL STATESMAN! e'er to Virtue true,
Thy precious maxims will we keep in view:
Thou learn'd proficient, skill'd in Wisdom's lore,
Thy fame shall echo to each distant shore:
Europe shall envy, wonder, and admire,
And laud the wisdom of COLUMBIA'S SIRE;
Thy country bless thee, and thy worth proclaim,
And speak aloud the honours of thy NAME!

* In this verse, the writer became truly affected by the *spirit* of New-England.

The author conceives, that by adopting his new mode of punctuation and by capitalizing and italicizing his words indiscriminately, he shall give to his Ode the greatest possible effect.

POLITICAL.

The greater our national distress and danger are, the greater should the efforts be of every particular man to relieve his country from one, and thereby to guard it against the other. We are in a crisis that must turn either to life or death, and that cannot turn to the former unless remedies are applied much more effectual than those of mountebanks, who find their account in palliating evils, and in prolonging diseases. To palliate and prolong would be, in one case, to kill, or to do something more than to kill, to break our constitution entirely, to render an accidental illness habitual and incurable.

LORD BOLINGBROKE—*State of the Nation*, 1749.

THE ELECTION.

UNDER this head we propose to class the various assertions of the Chronicle relative to the conduct of the federalists, and the disposition, character, and motives of Mr. Gore, according to the degree of moral depravity by which they may be most peculiarly distinguished. We can by such a plan, be able to appreciate with some little accuracy, the virtue, the wisdom and political integrity of the gladiators who fight in the amphitheatres of democracy.

LIES.

Those who wish for a dissolution of the union—those who are willing to set up a petty sovereignty, under the protection of Britain—those who are willing to have *American* BLOOD *shed by the hands of Americans*, and those who are willing to be governed by a *Mob*, will vote for Mr. Gore.

Chronicle, March 20, 1809.

Let us be cautious of bringing forward a candidate for Governour, who has never since his arrival from England, shown any other disposition than to degrade our administration, and extol the British *The same.*

If we considered such gross lies, as these just quoted, to require a serious refutation, we should view the people of this state in so despicable a light in point of understanding, virtue and information, that we should be willing to renounce all attempts at conviction, and resign all expectation of producing in the publick mind any regard for political integrity, or any capacity for the reception of political truth. The first passage contains three most base and palpably false insinuations, which have no foundation in common sense, or common honesty; they are lies, like the father that begets them, 'gross as a mountain, open, palpaple.'

1st. That the Federalists of Massachusetts wish for a dissolution of the union of these states.

2d. That they intend to render it a separate sovereignty, under the protection of Great-Britain.

3d. That in order to effect this object, they are willing to occasion a CIVIL WAR, and spill *American blood* by *American hands*. All we have to remark on these assertions is, that we defy the whole host of democ-

racy to *prove* or establish by any thing like *argument* either of these infamous assertions; we should be happy to meet them on this ground, at any time: for we are willing to subscribe to the modest avowal of one of their youthful statesmen in a late town-meeting: 'far be it from me,' said he, 'to shrink from any question, which involves the happiness or constitution of my country.'

The second quotation contains an assertion not only in defiance of all reason and probability, but in direct contradiction to fact. Mr. Gore's well known and ably maintained opinions on the subject of the colonial trade, alone afford an answer to assertions of this nature. Mr. Madison included Mr. Gore's letter on that subject to Mr. Munroe to be used in the negociations with the British government, *in opposition to their commercial claims*. This will be seen in the letter of the secretary of state, to Mr. Munroe, dated April 12th, 1806, and Mr. Gore's letter referred to, will be found published along with the dispatches from the secretary, dated November 12, 1805. In this letter Mr. Gore expresses his sentiments at length upon that most interesting subject; and in a manner, it seems, that authorised Mr. Madison to make use of it in his own discussion with the British ministry. So much for the assertion, that the sole disposition of Mr. Gore has been to degrade our government and extol that of Great-Britain! We think even Touchstone, would consider this the *lie direct*, however minute he may have been in enumerating the degrees of the lie.

They (the legislature) call on the people to re-elect themselves with Mr. Gore, one of their number, for Governor, in order expressly 'to unite the whole government of the state in one joint effort, with other states, whose interest and objects are similar to our own,' in some great but *undefined* project, to relieve our citizens from their oppressive tyrannical and unconstitutional laws, from which they despair of obtaining relief from the general government. Thus expressly putting the election of Mr. Gore and themselves upon the very principle of a partial combination of states in opposition to the United States, to prevent the execution of their laws by means of state authorities.

Chronicle, March 20.

The contradiction of all sense and meaning in this paragraph is very apparent. It is like all democratick argumentation, flimsy in itself; but the conclusion to which it leads '*a combination against the union*,' is absolute and unblushing *falsehood*. The writer declares that the project, as he is pleased to denominate it, of the legislature is great, but *undefined*. How then admit the assertion, that 'it is a partial combination of states in opposition to the United States?' This is a conclusion not warranted even by the *assumed* fact, that the legislature *had* called upon the people to re-elect themselves as legislators, and Mr. Gore, as governour, for the purpose of affecting a 'project,' which is admitted by the writer to be '*undefined*.' But is it indeed a vile project, to relieve our citizens from 'oppression and unconstitutional laws, when we despair of obtaining relief from the general government?' Do the de-

mocrats consider it criminal to oppose *tyrants*, and resist *oppression*;' or do they wish to support their congenial principles of enforcing 'unconstitutional' measures at the point of the bayonet? The answer to all this democratick trash, is this—that *opposition* to unconstitutional measures, measures which impair and have a tendency totally to subvert our natural and political rights, is LAWFUL. And though in *ordinary* cases the state governments would have no pretension to clash with the general system; yet to oppose tyranny, to resist oppression and unconstitutional laws, the 'Remonstrances' of the state governments are equally demanded by the distresses of the people, which follow such infractions of their liberties, and justified by the principles of reason, law and the constitution. The necessity therefore for the *whole* government of this state to unite in one joint effort, to obtain the repeal of unconstitutional laws is the more apparent, as the glorious opposition of the legislative bodies of Massachusetts to the arbitrary measures of the late administration 'has struck a blow at the democratick system of policy' which has shattered the very foundations of the fabrick.

Is *depriving the people of their rights in the choice of Electors* so pleasing that we are willing to reward them (the federalists) with our renewed suffrages?

Chronicle, March 20.

In pursuing this assertion, it is gratifying to know that we have a Constitution to refer to, for the authority under which we have acted. We have no doubt the Chronicle writers wish that no Constitution existed; we have no doubt they would defend any violations of the provisions of that instrument relating to the choice of *Electors*, as readily and with as much prevarication, as they defended the tyranny of the last embargo act. An act which will stand forever as a land mark in the sea of democracy, 'conspicuous and unremoved;' and with it will Mr. Jefferson's name be combined, and the infamy of his character will thereby be rendered immortal. The Chronicle writer talks about '*depriving the people of their rights in the choice of Electors*,' as if he really believed the insinuation to be true. There are two different ways of repelling this intimation. 1st. If the *rights of the people of Massachusetts* have been injured by the *Federalists*, the rights of the *people of a* LARGE MAJORITY OF THE STATES have been destroyed by the *Democrats*. The democrats say, '*submit to the majority*.' A majority of the states in the union choose their electors by the vote of their legislatures. 2d. Another stumbling argument which satisfies us of the propriety of the conduct of the legislature of Massachusetts, is that it is expressly allowed by the CONSTITUTION. Now we do not advance this as an argument to convince the democrats; we know they have no respect for the provisions of that instrument. We know by their praise bestowed on Mr. Jefferson, that a violation of it

is considered the height of political virtue, in their minds; and we have no doubt they would gladly expunge every article, which restrains in the least degree, the excess of their partizan zeal and intolerance. But as the CONSTITUTION does happen yet to exist, we still deem it proper to appeal to it; however the democrats may deride it, and ridicule the virtue which professes to treat it with reverence. Let the people read the *constitution*, and ask how *other states* in the union have acted, and they will no longer be deceived by the charges of the Chronicle; equally destitute of the fairness of argument and stability of truth.

MISREPRESENTATIONS.

Have not the majorities of the two houses of our state legislature gone further, both in principle and practice, than any other publick body in the United States ever before did, in organizing a resistance to the laws of the general government? *Chronicle, March* 20.

To this insidious question, we have a ready reply. Congress 'have gone further than any publick body in the United States ever before did, both in principle and practice,' to violate the rights and the liberties of the people, by laws which they have enacted. To the eternal honour of 'the majorities of the two houses of our state legislature,' they first unfurled the banner of legal opposition to these encroachments on our rights. The last attempt of the *democrats* to establish a system of *tyranny and oppression*, though it succeeded for a few months was frustrated by the determined virtue and integrity of the opposition which influenced our legislative bodies. As the fatal attempt upon our liberties stands recorded as a precedent, upon the annals of this country for ever, we do hope the ability, which displayed the transaction in all its native deformity, may descend to the historian in characters equally impressive and indelible; to convince him that though there was a vindictive spirit of intolerance in the nation which attempted to enslave it, there was also a spirit of patriotism in the nation, which resolved it should be free.

Is it for the interest of the citizens at large to have a body of federalists spending the publick money in debates, calculated for no other purpose than to abuse the president, dissolve the union, and make this state the ridicule of our enemies both at home and abroad? *Chronicle, March* 20.

Here is a logical system of argument indeed. The federalists have said, 'the laws laying an embargo to which there are no limits, and which violate our natural rights as citizens, are not legally binding upon the people.' This is too true, say the democrats; therefore, in order to answer our purpose, we will only say, that such remarks are for no other purpose than 'to dissolve the union;' this will frighten the federalists out of their rights, and we shall riot in the spoils of oppression.

The president knew the last embargo law to be *unconstitutional*, and therefore, in signing it, he acted treacherously, and as a decided ene-

my to his country. This is all true, say the democrats, how then thall we repel the assertion? Why, talk a deal about the dignity of authority. We abused Washington and Adams, when in office and power; we called them traitors and incendiaries. But the case is now altered; Mr. Jefferson is in power, and we are of his side, therefore he is infalliable; therefore the president must not be abused. We must talk much of *submitting to the will of the majority*; but if we are required to carry this principle to the state as well as national governments, we will change our tune; we will then say, the federalists are tories, villains, traitors, though they do compose a majority in Massachusetts, yet submission to such a majority would be submission to old tories, and would render 'this state the ridicule of our enemies both at home and abroad.' So much for democratick logick and argumentation.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOUR LINCOLN.

Amongst all the clamours of opposition, with which poor Mr. Gore has been assailed by the democrats, we hear no whispers of the 'sublime talents, virtue and religion' of our present chief magistrate. Amiable man! it is reserved for his political enemies to portray the features of his genius; his crimes speak for themselves, and it remains to be known whether they are not sufficiently obnoxious to the laws, to render the perpetrator a fit subject for the publick justice of his country. All people acknowledge him Lieutenant Governour, yet 'none feel hurt by his superiority;' he is in office, and envy is not only silent, but gratified at the contemplation; he is a statesman, and 'confusion is worse coufounded' by his reasonings. The attractions of the Lieutenant Governour are so peculiar, that we do not wonder at the admiration he excites among the democrats. None of his writings discover correctness, none of his remarks genius, nor any of his views utility; he is puerile, common place and visionary. With these qualities, we think he will unite the democrats at the approacing election, in one shout of general approbation. The following sketch of one of his honour's official specimens of extensive ability, is extracted for the consideration of his supporters in this state.

In the National Intelligencer, of the 19th September, 1804, the following compliment is paid to M[illegible] Lincoln, by a writer under the signature of Curtius. 'The short period during which he held his seat [in Congress] had not admitted of a *developement of his talents*, but he *entered* the body with the reputation of eminent talents.' We should be glad to know with what reputation he *left* it? The truth is, that he entered the body with the reputation of being one of the writers in a Worcester paper, called the Ægis, and was supposed to be one of the authors of a series of *essays*, (if a mass of slander, personal, vindictive and unjust, deserves the name) called the 'Farmer's Letters;' this

was the only evidence which the publick had received of his talents, and with this reputation he entered the House, and with this reputation only, he left it. It is true, that a further '*developement of his talents*,' did not take place during his stay in Congress; but it is not true that it was owing to 'the short period' to which it was confined. He remained sufficiently long to have developed his talents on the many important and interesting topicks which were each day the subjects of discussion. Awed by the splendour which surrounded him, he dared not expose his prate to the keen animadversion of his contemporary opponents. Having just sense enough to practise the maxim of '*vir sapit qui pauca loquitor*,' he shielded himself in a stupid silence, and sat scowling at the eminence, which he had not the power to resist. He therefore went out of Congress as he came in, with the reputation of being a very weak spoke in the wheel of government.

Mr. Lincoln was now appointed Attorney General of the United States, and during the long period in which he has *held*, we will not say *discharged* that office, he has permitted a farther *developement of his talents* by making one speech and an half in the Supreme Court.

The first speech was a sufficient developement of his talents, to induce administration to believe that in any future developement, it might be necessary for the interests of the country, that he should be assisted by other counsel, and therefore, in the celebrated case of the *Sugar Refiners*, Mr. Dallas was employed at the expence of several hundred dollars, to render this assistance. The cause was tried at the capitol, in Washington, during the sitting of Congress, before Chief Justice Marshall, and Judges Chase and Washington. The hall of the court was crowded with spectators, among whom were observed many foreigners of distinction and members of Congress. The honourable Levi Lincoln arose—one hand was rested on a large pile of law books, which it would seem he intended to use, the other contained a roll of manuscript notes of the case, to which it would seem he intended to refer. He neither used the one nor referred to the other. He was on the floor about ten minutes, when, having concluded his prefatory remarks, he said, 'I will now inform this honourable Court, of the first point which I have taken in this case.'—He paused, 'I say, may it please your honours,' (continued he, after a little hesitation) and paused again.—The Court listened with the utmost attention; the spectators who were at a little distance from the bar, anxious to witness the event which this illustrious instance of the '*montes parturiunt*,' seemed to promise, closed up in a semicircle round the balustrade of the forum. 'As I was saying, (said Mr. Lincoln) I have made a point.'—He had so. He told the Court that he begged their kind indulgence; that he felt exceedingly embarrassed, and wished a few minutes for recollection. The Court bowed assent, and Mr. Lincoln sat down.

After a pause of fifteen minutes, during which there was the most solemn stillness, Mr. Lincoln rose again. He continued to speak about ten minutes more. His manner was wild, incoherent, and unargumentative, and seemed to be an unconnected, promiscuous, and irregular assemblage of words, without the smallest attention to an *ordo verborum*. 'I have now come, (said he) may it please your honours, to the second point proposed—I say—the second point which I have taken is this—I have got, (said he) to the second point.' He, however, was never able to get any farther, and the Court remain yet to be informed what that second point was. Mr. Lincoln was obliged once more to apologize to the Court for being unable to proceed. He said he felt an embarrassment which he could not conquer, and that Mr. Dallas would go on with the cause. A confused murmur was heard throughout the hall; it was the hum of vexation, disappointment, and keen remark. Some of the auditory felt chagrined at this debasement of our national dignity; some felt disappointed and astonished that this exertion of forensick eloquence should have terminated in such a mortifying *developement of the talents* of their Attorney General; and others laughed at the impotency which they had predicted—whilst the poor Mr. Lincoln sat down at the bar and covered his face with his hands. It would be vain to deny the truth of this statement; the hundreds who were present can testify to its truth.

MR. GORE A TORY.

A bad cause is generally supported by sophistry or falsehood. Among the clamours of opposition to Mr. Gore, with which our ears have been assailed by the democrats, none has been more distinctly made known than this, that he was an OLD TORY during our revolutionary war. Now this is utterly false, and the democrats know it is false. What act of his have they mentioned in proof, or what opinion of his, have they suggested, as affording the slightest presumption of the fact. In the first place, he was not more than sixteen years of age, and then he was studying quietly at College, in Cambridge. But his father was certainly a tory, and the son is of the same breed; if the democrats determine to visit the sins of the fathers upon the children, what is to become of Mr. ERVING, employed in Europe as the Secretray of Legation in Spain, whose father was a tory and pensioner under the British government? The truth is, however, that Mr. GORE, young as he was, promulgated sentiments most favourable to the American cause, and the best proof is that he was chosen a member of the Convention of Massachusetts, on the adoption of the Constitution.

DEMOCRATICK CONSISTENCY.

English Orders *versus* French Decrees.

THE argument of the Democrats was, that if we should open a trade with England for the continent of Europe, the duties we should be obliged to pay there would amount to *tribute*; and that our *honour* (laughable) forbid the prosecution of such a traffick. That objection is now removed. The order in council of the 21st Dec. suspends the duties on exportations of articles 'being the growth, produce, or manufacture of any country for the time being in amity with his majesty, and *from the ports of which the British flag is not excluded.*' Our *non-intercourse act* completely renders this concession nugatory. But though we cannot take any commercial advantage of the permission, we can discover in it a *friendly disposition* on the part of Great-Britain, which country is denounced as our most decided enemy; whilst on the other hand, Holland, one of the *friendly nations*, according to Mr. Gallatin's circular, has issued a decree which provides that no vessels shall be permitted to enter the ports of that kingdom, whether friendly or not; but that the harbours of Holland shall be completely occluded. If neutral vessels are stranded upon the Dutch coast, and disabled from putting again to sea, the king kindly condescends to admit their cargoes into the royal warehouses, there to be kept *in safe custody* until the conclusion of peace. And our American Seamen, *by this decree*, are liable to be impressed *without distinction* in the Dutch navy. The American *master* is expressly degraded to a common sailor. Neutral vessels which may have touched at any enemies' port, or taken in letters or passengers during their voyage, *shall not be warned off but shall be condemned and confiscated.* These are some of the terms of a decree which goes into operation without notice; the neutrals are absolutely taken by surprize.

Suppose the crew of some American ship, *which may have accidentally met an English man of war, and had passengers forced on board of her, should arrive off the coast of Holland, without any knowledge of this decree*; what will be the effect? She is immediately *confiscated*, and the 'master and crew,' by the terms of the third article, 'shall without any distinction, be put on poard any one of their ships of war, to serve therein *as common sailors.*' Here

is a principle indeed, which goes infinitely beyond not merely the *right* for which the BRITISH contend, for that is clearly theirs, but beyond their most flagrant *practice*. This principle avows as a right, that one belligerent may oblige a neutral seaman to enter his service in opposition to another belligerent, on the ground of his having been forced by that other, into taking passengers on board his vessel; and this too, not only without previous notice to the neutral of his danger, but by expressly decoying him into the snare; for says the second article, vessels under such circumstances 'shall NOT BE WARNRD OFF, but be detained and confiscated.' The decree in practice amounts to this. Now how will government overcome their hitherto acquiescent deportment towards France and her dependencies? Will they dare to speak so boldly to Holland, as they have done to Great-Britain? Will they dare (as they ought) to speak more bold? No, they tremble at the nod of Napoleon, and as he points his finger, are they ready to follow, to retreat, or to remain at rest.

This most barefaced outrage on all just principles of international law is not 'interpolated by Great-Britain,' but by Holland. King Louis, a mere satellite of his brother Napoleon; a mere piece of drapery in his imperial robe; an insignificant imp of royalty, who dares in the face of the world, to insult the dignity of Mr. Jefferson's government, by a most infamous decree. What must we think of an administration, which any foreign nation could dare to treat with so much disrespect and even ignominy? Must we not perceive that we deserve to be reproached to the very beard, by suffering such a set of drivellers to rule over us; and think it time to break the chains of infatuation in which we have so long been held in bondage; or else gravely to give ourselves up to the complete control of France, and anxiously petition *Napoleon* to protect us in our submission?

MESSRS. EDITORS,

AS I was travelling lately towards Portland, in a solitary mood and on horse-back, my attention was suddenly arrested by a bundle of papers carefully wrapped up, which appeared accidentally to have been dropped near the foot of a tree, just upon the edge of the road. It was nearly covered, from which reason it had escaped general observ-

ation. I picked up the parcel and opened it; I found it consisted of letters from an English traveller in this country, to his friend in Jamaica. I considered them somewhat interesting, and at any rate, a great loss to the traveller himself, who I presume intended to publish them on his return home. I conclude he has now left the United States for Canada, from some expressions in his last letter. If he should ever see this notice, he will find out that his *pacquet* was not materially damaged, though the writing appeared to have faded considerably, from having lain for some time under the snow, and in a few places it is not quite intelligible. The spot where it was found was somewhere about half way through *Saco* woods; very near to a pine-log bridge. The author may receive his papers in good order, by sending you a letter, proving his claims to the property; but in the mean time I shall think myself authorized to send you occasionally some of the letters, to gratify the curiosity of your readers.

Your humble servant,

L**. D******.

Boston, September 1, 1808.

To — —,

YOU know my reasons for leaving Jamaica were peremptory, my dear friend; I departed from there with reluctance. Our voyage to this place was not remarkable for any thing, but a continued repetition of vulgarity, from the seamen on board ship. The American seamen swear a great deal; I wonder the government continues the embargo on their account! Appropos. I find those inhabitants of Boston, with whom I conversed on the subject, excessively ignorant and speculative, as far as regards the effects of that political measure in distressing the West-India Islands. You know, my friend, how well we were supplied with every necessary of life, before I left Kingston; and in my arguments with some of the inhabitants of this place, I have urged the facility with which we can raise a sufficiency for the consumption of the negroes; the numerous evasions of those restrictive laws, which must of necessity take place among an enterprizing set of men, like the Americans, and the advantages we derive in Europe in consequence of their trade being withdrawn. They however, fully calculate that the whimsical notions of their President will be realized, and that we shall yet be obliged to give up the point; which if they were in the least acquainted with Mr. Canning or any of the present ministry, they ought to consider entirely out of the bounds of probability. But more of this hereafter.

I arrived in the harbour of Boston, on the 22d of last month, in a passage of 28 days from Kingston; we came 'on the pinions of the swiftest gales that ever blew,' and I was willing to encounter, like Belcour, all the difficulties of cars, carmen, and numerous impediments, which are incident to Boston streets, without a troop 'of artillery in my front,' for the sake of good lodgings and company. But the quarantine regulations of this place require that every vessel, which arrives from the West-Indies, must have been out at least twenty-five days, before she can be allowed to enter at the custom-house, or to pass a fort, called Fort Independence, which is situate three miles from the city.

I was obliged to content myself as well as I was able by reading and writing to you, my dear friend, during my irksome abode at Quarantine Island. The scenery of the harbour of Boston is beautiful; it is interspersed with a number of verdant islands, some of which are in a state of cultivation, which give grace to the picture and add much to its effect. The passage at the entrance is narrow, but the harbour widens as you approach the city, which is upwards of two leagues from the light-house at its mouth, and between which and Fort Independence there is safe and commodious anchorage for ships of any burthen. The inhabitants of this city are exceedingly fond of *fishing*, and the harbour certainly affords them abundant sport.* Every fine day, you observe a number of fishing boats filled with company, pursuing this favourite object; and they even are so attached to it, that they frequently proceed to sea for many days, for no other purpose under heaven, than to catch cod-fish, and make them into a dish called *chowder*, which they are extravagantly fond of; and indeed it is so necessary to their comfort, that every inhabitant of Boston knows how to cook it properly. I understand that the very governour of the state, and the selectmen or fathers of the city, as they are called, afford a sanction to this practice, by taking a fishing excursion once every year, as the Doge of Venice marries the sea. This propensity of the Bostonians to catch fish, is accounted for on national principles; the

* The author here labours under a mistake; the inhabitants of Boston, in consequence of being deprived of their accustomed business by the embargo, pursued such amusements as were most convenient. This accounts for the number of fishing boats in the harbour during the last summer.

dry cod-fish is a staple article of commerce from this state, and the coasts around Boston are always covered with fishing vessels during a prosperous foreign trade; but the embargo has put a stop to it. Even one of the capes of Massachusetts bay is called Cape Cod, from the fish usually caught near that head land.

The Americans eat beef-steaks, or salted herrings, or smoked salmon, and drink cider *with* their breakfast; which in general consists of coffee badly made, or weak tea. I was surprized at the tendency of this people to devour flesh; I thought the English remarkable enough in this way, but they seldom demean themselves so far as to eat it in the morning. The Americans are very slovenly at their repasts, particularly at breakfast, when they mix indiscriminately, fish, flesh, cider, eggs, toast, coffee, and tea, sometimes with, and sometimes without sugar and cream; and they eat with the voracity of ploughmen. I had an excellent opportunity to observe their general practice at Quarantine Island.* I do not know how these people could exist without England; the china, or crockery in which their meals are served up, is manufactured in Staffordshire, and shipped hither from Liverpool, in crates. There is no manufactory of this kind in the United States; and indeed from the cheapness with which they obtain supplies from England, it is clear that no such establishment in America could afford to pay half the wages of its workmen, from any profits the business would afford.

After six days tedious residence in the harbour, I landed in this city three days ago. To show the propensity of the Americans to make every penny they can, we were allowed to come up to the city one day sooner than we ought by the health laws; this was in consequence of the contrivance of the captain, who *fixed* his log-book, as he termed it, so that it appeared we had been *twenty-five* days from Jamaica, when in reality we had only been away *twenty-four*.

The streets of this place are very irregular; they are filled with angles and projections of every description, and the pavement and side walks are much broken, and extremely incommodious. State-street, through which I passed into the city, is quite hand-

* Pretty observation truly! Quarantine Island frequented by masters and mates of ships, is but a poor situation to judge of the general character of the Americans: we should as soon think of estimating the manners of Grosvenor Square, by observing the ignorance and vulgarity of the inhabitants of St. Giles.

some, and the appearance of high brick houses and glass windows was very agreeable after my long residence in the West-Indies. As I went through this street to my lodgings, I was rather surprized at the multitude of people who were standing still in the street, and apparently gazing at each other. I thought it singular, and secretly wished for one of the flappers which Swift describes in Gulliver's travels, to move them from the spot to which they appeared to be nailed. On enquiring the reason of this singular propensity of the Bostonians to stand in the street, I understood the two side walks of State-street made the Boston Exchange; and though a very large and extremely convenient building was erecting principally for the purpose of an Exchange, yet it was believed the merchants would not frequent it, because they were accustomed to the street; and besides, they had prejudices against the structure, which they could not overcome; they said it was not built in the right spot, it should have been placed on the opposite side of the way, and it did not make so handsome an appearance from State-street as it ought. I was struck with the profundity of these objections, and shall beg leave to examine them at another opportunity.

I took lodgings at Mrs. ******, where I found a number of agreeable companions; but I shall be able to make you better acquainted with them and the town in general, when I write you my next letter, until which time I subscribe myself

Truly your friend. C. S.

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